

# THE BREAKING POINT

By Mary Roberts Rinehart

Author of "Dangerous Days," "K," "The Amazing Interlude," and many other striking and successful novels. Copyright, 1921, by George H. Doran Co.

**WHO'S WHO IN THE STORY**  
**DR. DAVID LIVINGSTON**, chief physician at Beverly, a small town, great but kind, who believed neither with Lucy, his sister, beloved by everybody in town.  
**DR. DICK LIVINGSTON**, in whose memory there is a deep, and who is determined to go back to Beverly, his chief. He is full of vitality and is busily looking for a professional case. He is in love with Elizabeth Wheeler, a wholesome girl, who loves him very much.  
**BEVERLY CARVILLE**, actress, who, ten years before, was picked up in a curious way. Her husband, and she were about to die, as was generally believed, by a certain kind of carbolic acid. She was saved. Clark had disappeared immediately. It was believed he perished in a hospital.  
**HARRISON MILLER**, a neighbor, who knows something of the secret.  
**FRED GREGORY**, Beverly's brother and manager, whose researches led him to Clark.  
**LOUIS BARRETT**, a newspaperman, who has been in the town since he was a boy. Clark, his desire to clear things up.  
**NINA**, Elizabeth's sister, an extravagant girl.  
**WALLIE WHEELER**, Elizabeth's brother-in-law, who is a doctor.  
**WALTER WHEELER**, a rich youth whose specialty is to select mother-in-laws for his sister, with whom he is in love.



On the morning before Christmas, Nina came in, her arms full of packages.

DAVID was satisfied. The great love of his life had been given to Dick, and now Dick was his again. He grieved for Lucy, but he knew that the parting was not for long, and that from whatever high place she looked down she would know that he was satisfied. He looked on his work and found it good. There was no trace of weakness or of vacillation in the man who sat across from him at the table, or slammed in and out of the house after the door had closed. At first it was enough to have Dick there, to stop in the doorway of his room and see him within, occupied with the prosaic business of getting on with his work. But now, now and then to put a hand on his shoulder, to bear him fusing in the laboratory again, and to be called to examine divers and sundry matters to which Dick's name lent importance and more impressive names. But behind Dick's surface cheerfulness he knew that he was eating his heart out.

And there was nothing to be done. Nothing. Secretly David watched the papers for the announcement of Elizabeth's engagement, and each day drew a breath of relief when it did not come. And he had done another thing secretly, too; he did not tell Dick when her ring came back. Annie had brought the box without a letter, and the incredible curiosity of the thing made David furious. He stamped into his office and locked it in a drawer, with the definite intention of saving Dick that one additional pang at a time when he already had enough to bear.

For things were going very badly. The fight was on. It was a battle without action. Each side was dug in and entrenched, and waiting. It was an engagement where the principals met occasionally on the neutral ground of the streets, bowed to each other and passed on.

The town was sorry for David and still fond of him, but it resented his self-necked attitude. It said, in effect, that when he ceased to make Dick's enemies his it was willing to be friends. But it said also, to each other, and behind his back, that Dick's absence was discreditable or it would be explained, and that he had behaved abominably to Elizabeth. It would be large if it would be friends with him. It looked at him, and Dick knew that when he passed by on the streets it peered at him from behind its curtains, and whispered behind his back. Now and then he saw, on his evening walks, the line of cars drawn up before houses he had frequented, and he was never asked. He never told David.

It was only when the taboo touched David that Dick was resentful, and then he was inclined to give the wisdom of his return. It hurt him, for instance, to see David give up his church, and reading morning prayer alone at home on Sunday mornings, and to see his girls alone with some of his old friends mentioned.

Yet on the surface things were much as they had been. David rose early, and as he improved in health, read his morning paper in his office while he waited for breakfast. Dr. Reynolds had gone, and the desk in Dick's office was back where it belonged. In the morning Mike oiled the car in the stable and washed it, his old pipe clutched in his teeth, and he came in and sent him the sounds of pans and dishes, and the odor of frying sausages. And Dick splashed in the shower, and shaved by the mirror with the cracked glass in the bathroom. But he did not sleep.

The house was very quiet. Now and then the front door opened, and a patient came in, but there was no longer the crowded waiting room, the incessant ringing of the telephone, the odor of pungent drugs and medicines, but it was unthinkable that David should do without, one by one, the small luxuries of his old age, his cigars, his long and now errandless rambles behind Nettie.

He began then to think of his property, his for the claiming, and to question whether he had not bought his peace at too great a cost to David. He knew by that time that it was not fear, but pride, which had sent him back empty-handed, the pride of making a own way. And now and then, too, he felt a perfectly human desire to let Barrett publish the story as his dedication and then make his way from them all, to some luxurious haven where—that was the point at which he always stopped—where David could find away in homesickness for them!

There was an irony in it that made him laugh hopefully.

Later on, but more gently, he introduced the subject to Elizabeth. "You can't get away from me, Mrs. Wheeler. So long as she stands off, and you behind her, the town is going to take her side. She doesn't know it, but that's how it stands. It all hangs on her. If he wasn't the man he is, I'd say his salvation hangs on her. I don't mean she ought to take him back; it's very late for that, if she's engaged. But a little friendliness and kindness wouldn't do any harm. You too. Do you ever have him here?"

"How can I, as things are?"

"Well, be friendly, anyhow," he argued. "That's not asking very much. I suppose he'd cut my throat if he knew, but I'm a straight-to-the-mark sort of person, and I know what this house does the town will do."

"I'll talk to Mr. Wheeler. I don't know. I'll say this, Mr. Bassett. I won't make her unhappy. She has borne a great deal, and sometimes I think her life is spoiled. She is very different."

"If she is suffering, isn't it possible she cares for him?"

But Margaret did not think so. She was very calm. She was so calm that sometimes it was alarming.

He gave her a ring, and the other day he tossed into a drawer full of odds and ends. I haven't seen it lately; she may have sent it back."

Elizabeth came back shortly before Christmas, undeniably glad to be back and to see her friends. She was set to work almost immediately on the gifts, wrapping them and tying them with methodical exactness, sticking a tiny sprig of holly through the ribbon bow, and writing cards with neatness and care. She hung up wreaths and decorated the house, and when she was through with her work she went to her room and sat with her hands folded, not thinking. She did not think any more.

Walle had sent her a flexible diamond bracelet as a Christmas gift, and it lay on her table in its box. She was very grateful, but she had not put it on.

On the morning before Christmas Nina came in, her arms full of packages, and she bowed to him and went on. At those times it seemed incredible that once he had held her in his arms, and that she had looked up at him with loving, faithful eyes. He suffered so from those occasional meetings that he took to watching for her, so as to avoid her. Sometimes he wished she would marry Wallace quickly, so he would be obliged to accept what he now knew he had not accepted at all.

He had occasional spells of violent anger at her, and of resentment, but they died when he checked up, one after another, the inevitable series of events that had led to the catastrophe. But it was all nonsense to say that love never died. She had loved him, and there was never anything so dead as that love of hers.

He had never saved one thing, however; he had never seen her with Wallie Sage. Then one day in the country while he trudged about to make one of his rare professional visits, they went past together in Wallie's bright roadster. The sheer shock of it sent him against a fence, and after that with an anger that shook him.

Late in November Elizabeth went away for a visit, and it gave him a breathing spell. But the strain was telling on him, and Bassett, stopping on his way to dinner at the Wheelers, told him so bluntly.

"You look pretty rotten," he said. "It's no time to go to see me now, and you've put up your fight and won it."

"I'm all right. I haven't been sleeping. That's all."

"How about the business? People coming to their senses?"

"Not very fast," Dick admitted. "Of course it's a little soon."

After dinner at the Wheelers, when Walter Wheeler had gone to a vestry meeting, Bassett delivered himself to Margaret of a highly indignant harangue on the situation in general.

"That's how I see it," he finished. "He's done a fine thing. A finer thing by a damned sight than I'd do, or any of this town. He's given up enough money to pay the national debt—or nearly. If he'd come back with it as business Clark, they wouldn't have cared a hang for the past. They'd have licked his boots. It makes me sick."

He turned on her.

"You too, I think, Mrs. Wheeler. I'm not attacking you on that score. It's human nature. But it's the truth."

"Perhaps, I don't know."

"They'll drive him to doing it yet. He came back to make a place for himself again, like a man. Not what he had, but what he was. But they'll drive him away, mark my words."

By Christmas, however, he realized that the question of meeting their expenses necessitated further economies.

He occupied himself then with ways and means, and sold the car. Reynolds, about to be married and busily furnishing a city office, bought it, had it repaired and a bright blue, and signified to the world at large that he was at the Rooster house every night by leaving it at the curb. Sometimes, on long country trips, Dick saw it outside a farmhouse, and then he knew that the boycott was not limited to the town.

By Christmas, however, he realized that the question of meeting their expenses necessitated further economies.

He occupied himself then with ways and means, and sold the car. Reynolds, about to be married and busily furnishing a city office, bought it, had it repaired and a bright blue, and signified to the world at large that he was at the Rooster house every night by leaving it at the curb. Sometimes, on long country trips, Dick saw it outside a farmhouse, and then he knew that the boycott was not limited to the town.

By Christmas, however, he realized that the question of meeting their expenses necessitated further economies.

He occupied himself then with ways and means, and sold the car. Reynolds, about to be married and busily furnishing a city office, bought it, had it repaired and a bright blue, and signified to the world at large that he was at the Rooster house every night by leaving it at the curb. Sometimes, on long country trips, Dick saw it outside a farmhouse, and then he knew that the boycott was not limited to the town.

By Christmas, however, he realized that the question of meeting their expenses necessitated further economies.

He occupied himself then with ways and means, and sold the car. Reynolds, about to be married and busily furnishing a city office, bought it, had it repaired and a bright blue, and signified to the world at large that he was at the Rooster house every night by leaving it at the curb. Sometimes, on long country trips, Dick saw it outside a farmhouse, and then he knew that the boycott was not limited to the town.

By Christmas, however, he realized that the question of meeting their expenses necessitated further economies.

He occupied himself then with ways and means, and sold the car. Reynolds, about to be married and busily furnishing a city office, bought it, had it repaired and a bright blue, and signified to the world at large that he was at the Rooster house every night by leaving it at the curb. Sometimes, on long country trips, Dick saw it outside a farmhouse, and then he knew that the boycott was not limited to the town.

By Christmas, however, he realized that the question of meeting their expenses necessitated further economies.

He occupied himself then with ways and means, and sold the car. Reynolds, about to be married and busily furnishing a city office, bought it, had it repaired and a bright blue, and signified to the world at large that he was at the Rooster house every night by leaving it at the curb. Sometimes, on long country trips, Dick saw it outside a farmhouse, and then he knew that the boycott was not limited to the town.

By Christmas, however, he realized that the question of meeting their expenses necessitated further economies.

He occupied himself then with ways and means, and sold the car. Reynolds, about to be married and busily furnishing a city office, bought it, had it repaired and a bright blue, and signified to the world at large that he was at the Rooster house every night by leaving it at the curb. Sometimes, on long country trips, Dick saw it outside a farmhouse, and then he knew that the boycott was not limited to the town.

By Christmas, however, he realized that the question of meeting their expenses necessitated further economies.

**People You Know!**  
 A lot of them, likable or otherwise, make up the cast of characters in an absorbing drama of **American Life of Today**. Flapper, jazzhounds, busy money-making father, fashion-butterfly mother—all appear in **"The House of Mohun"**. Get acquainted with them beginning **Wednesday**.

**House Robes**  
 33.00 to 49.00

**Smoking Jackets**  
 23.50

Designed and tailored in the Jaeger private workrooms for the discriminating man these smart and good looking House Robes are light, warm and comfortable. On full graceful lines with shawl or high collar bound with silk cord or grosgrain ribbon, self belt or silk cord girdle.

**Camel Hair House Slippers** . . . 4.50 & 5.50

MAIL ORDERS & INQUIRIES INVITED  
 JAEGER BOOK ET UPON REQUEST  
 1701 CHESTNUT STREET  
 Corner 17th Street

## 49th Anniversary Sale Specials for Tuesday in Our Economy Basement

Monday, November 6, 1922. Store Opens 9 A. M. Closes 5:30 P. M.  
**SNELLENBURG'S**  
 ENTIRE BLOCK—MARKET 112<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> STREETS

An Exceedingly Low Price for Such Lovely  
**New \$12.50 to \$17.50 Dresses**  
 You Will Find None Like Them

at **\$7.90**

Compare the unusual distinction of style—the quality of the materials.

**Women's, Misses' and Extra Sizes**

Draped models that are so popular as well as the attractive combinations of style points such as these—panels, pleats, tucks, touches of embroidery, sashes and girdles.

Charmeuse, Satin, Poiret Twill, Tricotine, Crepe de Chine, Canton Crepe, Velvetene, Lace and Canton Crepe combined with Tinsel Cloth.

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement



A Trio of Matchless Values in  
**Girls' Apparel**  
**Girls' \$12.75 Fur-Trimmed or Sports Coats**  
**at \$6.75**



The sket. shows only one of the smart styles. Peter Pan collars and silk embroidery are features of the trimming. Sizes 7 to 14 years.

**Girls' \$1.50 and \$2.00 Gingham Bloomer Dresses**  
**at 97c**

Straight-line models with Peter Pan collars and cuffs such as are selected by the most exacting for classroom wear. Red and white or blue and white checks. Sizes 7 to 14 years.



**Almost 1-3 and Sometimes Less Than 1-3 the Price**  
**AN UNUSUAL LOT OF**  
**Women's \$1.50 to \$2.00 Corsets**  
**At 65c Pair**

The wisest women will buy two and three pairs in this extra-special sale of the famous Snellenburg Special and C. B. maker. **Medium and Girdle Tops. Long and Short Hip Models. New Shipment of 75c to \$1.00 Bandeaux at 49c.**

The Greatest Margin of Saving Made Possible by Our Maker-to-Wearer Policy in This Anniversary Group of Men's Clothing

**Men's and Young Men's \$23.50 Winter Overcoats**  
**at \$13.75 Each**



Styles are ulsters, ulsterettes, raglans, single and double breasted coats and belted all-around models.

**Men's and Young Men's \$30.00 Winter Overcoats \$18.75 at Each.**

Single and double breasted models with raglan or set-in sleeves, ulsterettes, ulsters and conservative loose-fitting styles.

**Men's and Young Men's \$21.75 Fall and Winter Suits \$12.00 at Each.**

**Men's and Young Men's \$25.00 Fall & Winter One and Two Trousers Suits at Each. \$16.50**

**Men's and Young Men's \$4.50 Fancy Trousers. Pair \$2.45**

**Men's and Young Men's \$6 Fancy Trousers at Pair. \$3.45**

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

N. SNELLENBURG & CO.

Another Opportunity for Substantial Saving on  
**29c and 39c Mill Remnants of Plisse Crepe**  
**at 15c Yard**

Thousands of yards of soft-finish Plisse Crepe for men's shirts, women's undergarments, etc., in plain colors, checks and stripes. No mail or phone orders.

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

**5000 Pairs of Women's Cushion Comfort Two-Strap House Slippers**

**To Sell at \$1.59 Pair**

Made of fine soft black kidskin, with thick cushion insoles for tired, tender feet; leather soles and rubber military heels. All sizes, 3 to 11. Mail and telephone orders filled.

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

An Incomparable Value in  
**\$5 Pure Worsted Brushed Wool Hat and Scarf Sets**  
**at \$2.95 Set**

Just the kind of cold weather accessories that are sought by hundreds for gift purposes and for personal use. They are so very becoming as well as warm and cozy to wear.

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

**18c Outing Flannel 12 1/2c Yard**  
 Pretty striped patterns.

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

**Parents Will Save a Great Deal on These Boys' \$6.50 Two-Pants Suits \$4.45**

Suits of mixed chevrot Full-lined knicker pant.

**\$1.75 Oliver \$1.00 Twist Suits.**

Boys' Oliver Twist suit of obiduroy with washable tops. Sizes 3 to 8 years.

**\$3.25 Oliver \$2.25 Twist Suits.**

Corduroy suits in blue brown, drab and green Sizes 3 to 8 years.

**\$6.50 Suits. \$4.95**

Corduroy suits of extra good quality. Sizes 5 to 16 years.

**\$5 Mackinaws \$3.75**

Good quality blanket-cloth coats. Sizes 12 to 16.

**\$6.50 Overcoats \$4.95**

Button up to the neck overcoats and belted all around. In mixed chevrot. Sizes 2 1/2 to 10 years.

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

**\$5.00 & \$6.50 Genuine English Broadcloth and Pure Silk Shirts**

At **\$2.29 Each**

Less than half price.

Some pure silk, fibre-silk and silk mixed shirts in the lot.

A quality that is exceptional. The tailoring is very good and the making unusually fine.

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

Nothing to Equal or Approach the Values in This Sample Lot of  
**Infants' \$7.95 to \$9.95 Long Cashmere Coats**  
**At \$4.69**

What a rare opportunity for mothers of tiny infants or for uncles and aunts who seek tokens of admiration. These little coats are daintily styled, made of splendid quality cashmere and many beautifully hand embroidered.

**Infants' Dainty Silk Caps, Special 59c**

Selection of pretty styles.

**Infants' 79c Long 39c**

Less than half price! Pretty yoke and bishop styles.

**Infants' \$1.25 Hand-Embroidered Pillow Slips. 65c**

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

**800 Hemstitched and Scalloped Cloths**

Worth \$2.25

At **\$1.49 Each**

The quality is heavy and firm and the satin finish damask has a lustrous finish. They are two yards round or square.

**800 Dozen U. S. Government Turkish Towels, Worth 25c, Each. 15c**

Spently practical for every day use. Woven from double twisted yarn, size 17x35 inches, with neat hemmed ends. All perfect and in their original packages.

Slight imperfections in some of these shirts are the reason for such an extremely low price. Nothing to impair the wear, however. Sizes 14 to 17.

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

Again Demonstrating Our Ability to Sell Dependable Rugs at the Lowest Possible Prices in Our Basement Rug Department

**750 Room-Size Rugs**

At Less Than Wholesale Cost

**Seamless Tavestry Brussels Rugs 9x12 ft. \$12.00**

**Seamless Wool-Face Velvet Rugs 9x12 ft. \$22.00**

**Heavy High-Pile Axminster Rugs 9x12 ft. \$27.00**

**Cork Linoleum Values Up to \$1.25**

Room-size lengths up to 200 yards of one pattern—an unusual opportunity to buy genuine cork linoleum cheaper than the felt kind—sq. yd.

At **39c**

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement

**Inlaid Linoleums**

An unusual opportunity to buy inlaid linoleums cheaper than some printed kinds; about 3000 yards in full and sample rolls. Some remnants—sq. yd.

At **67c to 97c**

SNELLENBURG'S Economy Basement